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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/703,277	10/31/2000	Harrison G. Purvis	24104A	1667

27975 7590 03/08/2004

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EXAMINER

MILLER, WILLIAM L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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29

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Commissioner for Patents

See attached Office communication.

William L. Miller
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3677

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The reply filed on 02-10-2004 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action in which prosecution to the merits was closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Moreover, the application was, and remains, in condition for allowance except for the formal matter of providing the original patent, or a statement as to a loss or inaccessibility of the original patent. See 37 CFR 1.178. Although the amendment included a statement as to a loss or inaccessibility of the original patent, the amendment also attempted to amend claims 12-16, 18, 20-22 and add new claims 26-28 which is clearly improper as prosecution to the merits was closed in the prior Office Action. Since the amendment will not be entered and the statement was filed therewith, the statement will also not be considered. Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application. The fully responsive reply should only include the statement as to a loss or inaccessibility of the original patent as this is the only formal matter preventing allowance of the application.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Miller whose telephone number is 703 305 3978. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on 703 306 4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

William L. Miller
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

WLM
03-04-2004